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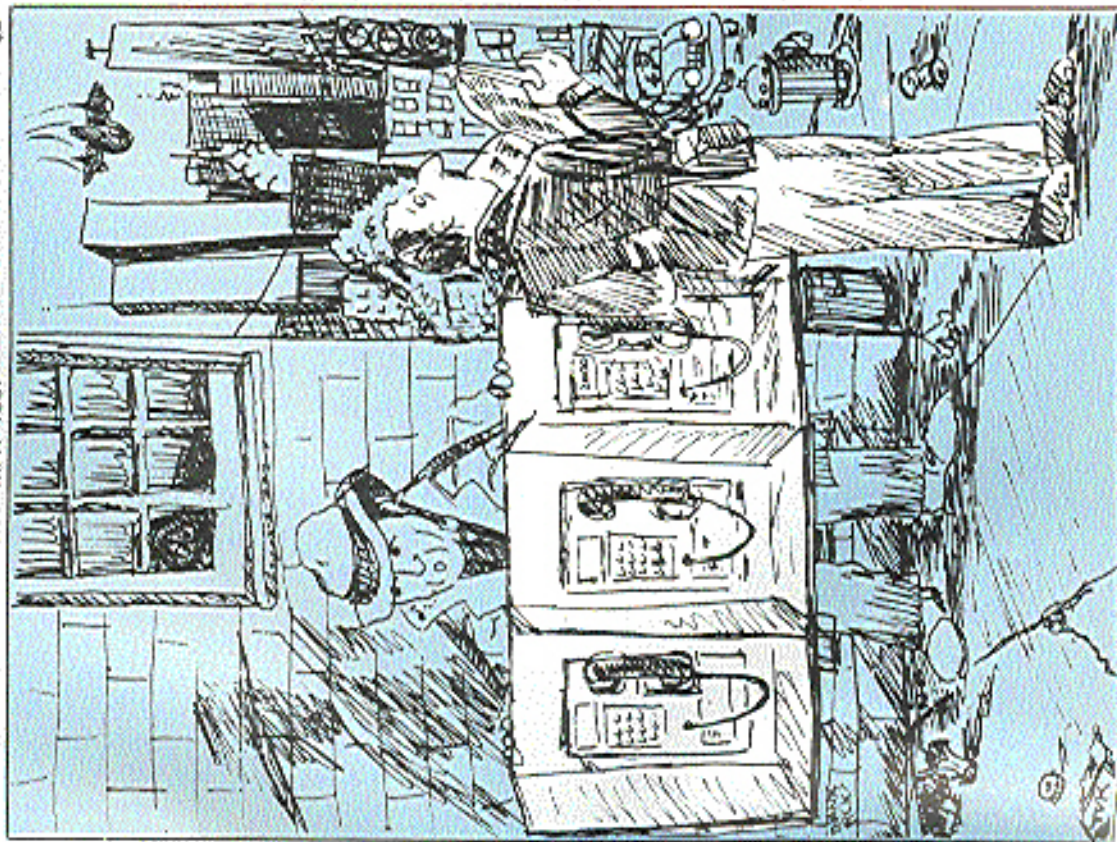
2600

The Monthly Journal of the American Hacker

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It's been kind of a running joke here that if we tell people to let us know if they receive our magazine after a certain date, something will go wrong and nearly everyone will receive it after that date. As a result, we're always inundated with calls. Since we changed our format, this is but one of many problems we've been trying to solve. If all goes well, and it damn well better, we will be mailing on the 18th of May. If you receive this much later than you would a first class letter, let us know and we'll find out who's dragging what.

London, UK. Success for us means selling about 80 percent of what we send. We have important things to say here and we want to reach all kinds of other thinking people throughout the world. So, if you know of a fairly decent newspaper by you, one that sells alternative publications, let us know and we'll try to distribute there.

We hope to see some curious folks at our first public get-together in New York City. It will take place at the Chicorp Center at 153 East 53rd Street at 5 pm in the Atrium, where all kinds of people gather. We'll have 2600 buttons and copies of this issue will be everywhere. So stop by and ask some questions or bring articles. And if you'd like us to come to a city near you, start pestering us now.

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CLASS: What

by The Videomath

This article will explain the newly developed LASS system (AT&T Bell Labs), and how it may affect us in the near future. Note that the service as it appears for customers is called "CLASS", the C standing for Custom. I assume this is just for looks. At the time during which this article was being initially researched, CLASS was only being developed for the 1A ESS switch. At the end of the research involved with this article, CLASS was already implemented in data stage on ESS#5.

LASS

The telephone is destined to become a well used and powerful tool for otherwise tedious tasks. Gas meters and other metered services will be surveyed through the use of automatic data retrieval employing telephone communications. All in all, there are big plans for the uses one could put the telephone system up to, and CLASS is one plan that is going to drop an innovative bombshell on the telecommunicating world.

At this moment, a local CCIS network feature is being developed by Bell Laboratories. This feature will change the way people use phones, and will also change the attitude in which they use them. It will give far more control of the telephone to the user than ever before. This feature is called CLASS (Custom Local Area Signaling Services).

Everyone will find something useful in this newly developed telephone feature. Pizza parlours will no longer have to worry about fraudulent Italian food mongers, and little old ladies won't have to worry about prank calls by certain dubious characters.

What are all these fantastic features? They will include call back of the last caller, regardless of whether you have their telephone number or not. Another will be distinct call waiting tones, and preselected call forwarding (only those people whom you wish to speak to will be forwarded). This is only a rudimentary list of CLASS features to come. It is a very powerful system, and it all relies on LCCIS (Local Common Channel Interface Signaling), an

intra-LATA version of the ever-popular CCIS.

CCIS Background

CCIS was originally introduced in 1976 as, basically, the signaling system to end all signaling systems. Instead of using the voice grade trunks to carry signaling information, a data network would be used. This network is comprised of data links from each central office (CO) to the appropriate STP (signal transfer point). Signaling information is sent through these links at 4800 tps in the STPs (note that baud rates may increase due to the economic availability of faster data communications hardware), where stored program control routes the signaling information to the needed offices in order to open and complete the call path. SPC checks automatically for on-hook/off-hook status before opening the path, and if the status is off-hook (in this case assuming the customer does not have the call waiting custom calling feature), relays information to the originating CO to apply a busy signal to the customer. This is but one of many features; toll CCIS provides the network with:

Since this text is not centered on the topic of toll CCIS, technical aspects aren't as important (except for the comparison between the local and toll networks for observational purposes)—yet it is important to notice how automated and flexible this type of signaling method is, not to mention its speed and efficiency. All the software control involved with local and toll networks is called, fittingly, the "stored program control network" or SDN (Integrated Services Digital Network).

CLASS/LCCIS Features

Using a high speed data link between local offices creates a much more flexible and more efficient way for intra-LATA central offices to communicate. Instead of using per-trunk signaling (using the same trunk used for voice transmission) to send routing and billing information, such data would be sent thru a dedicated data link, which interacts with a local signal processing and transfer point. From that point, signaling information is distributed to appropriate central offices or tandem switches.

It Means To Us

LCCIS will work with the local switches using stored program control, keeping track of call data. The 1A switches will use what is called "scratch pad" memory (also known as call store), in conjunction with LCCIS's database, to accomplish all the features that LASS provides. This memory will hold such data as "line history", and a "screening list". That information will make it possible for auto-redial, selective call forwarding, nuisance call rejection, and distinctive call waiting tones.

List stage defaults for some features:

- DTMF / Pulse / Description of Service
- 466 / 1166 / Reconnect last caller
- 463 / 1163 / Selective Call Forward
- 460 / 1160 / Nuisance Call Blocking
- 457 / 1157 / Customer "Trace"

Command codes may vary in different areas. These were found in a general description of CLASS.

Selective CF

Selective call forwarding is defined by the subscriber (the subscriber must have conventional call forwarding to request this service). Using call store, or more specifically the screening list, one will be able to selectively forward a call to another directory number by executing a few simple commands on the friendly home-bound telephone (unlike migrating telephones most frequently found in hotel rooms). An access code (a list will appear at the end of the file) will be entered, and a special tone will be issued from the subscriber's CO. The customer will then dial in the numbers he wants forwarded to the particular number. After each number, a tone will sound indicating the acceptance of the number. Individual BOC's (Bell Operating Companies) will be able to define the amount of numbers which may be screened. Once

this is done, the customer hangs up and the ESS takes over. Now, whenever someone calls this particular customer, the customer's switch will compare the calling line's directory number with those stored in scratch pad memory. If the CLID matches one of the numbers in 1A memory associated with the called directory number, the number is forwarded. If not, the phone will ring at the original destination. This in particular could make it very difficult on system hackers, as you could probably imagine. A company can subscribe to this CLASS feature, and enter only the numbers of authorized users to be forwarded to a computer. Bureaus inside the various telephone companies and other sensitive operations can screen calls to particular numbers by using this service.

This is a security that's hard to beat, but of course there is a way (simple law of nature: nothing is fall-safe). There will always be the obvious way of finding numbers which are being forwarded to, like auto-dialing entire exchanges (one after the other). Unfortunately, CLASS will be providing other services which might make "scrambling" seem less attractive.

Distinctive Ringing

Distinctive ringing is handled in the same fashion as selective call forwarding: the screen list in scratch pad memory. The customer may enter numbers which the ESS should give special precedence to, and whenever a call is placed to this particular customer's number, ESS checks to see whether the CLID matches a directory number listed in the switch's memory. If a match is made, the subscriber's CO gives the off-hook line a special call waiting tone, or the on-hook phone a distinctive ring (possibly using abnormally timed ringing voltage—some readers may picture a British Telecom ring as an example, although many foreign audible rings tend to be different).

Call Rejection

Nuisance call rejection, a feature making it possible to block certain idiots from ringing your phone (a feature we can all benefit from at one time or another... or all of the time), uses the information retrieved from LCCIS (CLID). Let's

E-Card Trial

A trial for a new AT&T credit card is in progress. It's called the E-Card (Smart Card). The trial started in January 1987 and is scheduled to run for six months. One thousand E-Card participants were selected to try out the new card and 1000 AT&T public telephones were modified for E-Card capability. These telephones are located at airports in 30 cities.

The E-Card is a credit card with a small micro-chip (ROM) and gold fingers on the card edge. The E-Card can store up to 50 names and telephone numbers. It is similar to a credit card but has no magnetic strip on it (card number and listings are contained in the micro-chip). The customer inserts the card into the public telephone and his directory list will appear on the screen. The calling party depresses the digit(s) shown next to the person's name he wishes to dial. The call is automatically outpulsed and charged to the calling card number.

E-Card holders who require assistance on how to use the card or encounter a service difficulty resulting in a request for credit are instructed to call 800-922-0088. This number is on the modified telephones and is also on the screen.

959 Numbers

Last month, in the letters column a coin phone test number was mentioned. This number was 9591230. The 959 exchange is a test number exchange used by AT&T. There are lots of AT&T employees and test numbers galore.... Often, in a cross-bar switching system, you can't reach a 959 number without dialing 0-NPA+ first (note: this is *not* an operator assisted call). Keep in mind that these numbers will vary from town to town. And of course, the best thing about 959 numbers is that they're free.

Coin test:

0 HNPA (Home NPA) 959-1230
0-959-1230
959-1230

Y=0 or 5x=0 through 9

959-1V0x Milliwat (1004 hertz tone)
959-1V1x 4FSS Test Board Position
959-1V2x Milliwat
959-1V3x Quiet Termination
959-1V4x Remote Office Test Line
959-1V4x Responder (ROTI)

959-1V5x ROTL (Type 105 test line)
959-1V8x Milliwat
959-1V9x Always Busy
959-200x White Plains, NY WATS center (X=0,5,6 and 7)
959-210x Wayne, PA WATS center (X=0,5,6 and 7)

959-225x Chicago, IL WATS center (X=0-9)
959-22xx WATS confirmation recording (xx=00-29)
959-5xxx Test positions, strange men. I haven't had time to scan this out.

There are more numbers than this, but this is what I've found as of yet. If anyone scans this out send what you get into us here at 2600.
(Don Foley is on vacation.)

phoning home from europe

By The Lineman

The information in this article was gathered from experience in the countries mentioned.

One thing you have to keep in mind when dealing with the telephone systems in other countries is that they are inferior to the ones you are used to dealing with in the United States. This is mainly due to the fact that we invented the telephone system and that AT&T and the RBOCs (NYNEX, Southwestern Bell, etc.) are private companies whereas most of the telephone companies in Europe are run by the governments of those countries. All of the companies were public until September of 1984, when British Telecom International was privatized.

The first country I visited was England. When I was there the Hotel I was staying at told me they had a "Direct Line to the United States". I found this a bit odd, so I inquired more about it and found out about USA Direct, a new service offered by AT&T. The service allows people in other countries to call the U.S. via a TSPS type of operator position located in New York. The operators have the country code of the country you are calling from and that is all. Over 50 countries are handled by the new service. They include: United Kingdom (080 089 0011), France (19-0011), The Netherlands (06 022 9111), Germany (except Frankfurt) (0 130 0010), Australia (001 488 1011), Denmark, Spain, Japan, Korea, Hong Kong, Iran, Columbia, Panama, and a lot of other Central American countries. The list of countries is supposed to expand within the next year or so. Italy and other countries should be joining the service soon. If you'd like to find out about a specific country you plan to visit, call the AT&T International Long Distance toll free number at 800-874-4000. They will be able to give you a more complete list as the one I left here gradually becomes out of date.

England

British Telecom International (BTI) has by far the most advanced equipment in all of Europe. Unfortunately, this is not saying very much. They are upgrading existing step by step and crossbar exchanges to digital switches, namely System X. When I was there, though, I only ran into one exchange in London that would accept the tones generated by my portable touch-tone generator.

The operator services of BTI are also far below the standards we are used to in the U.S. When you dial a BTI international operator (155), they will usually keep you waiting for a few minutes. When you do reach an international operator, they do not know your telephone number and will believe you when you make up one. They can place collect calls and calls using AT&T International Calling Cards. The only problem with this method is that if you are staying at a hotel you won't be able to reach the USA Direct or the BTI international operator via the hotel's PBX and you will have to give them the calling card number and have them handle it. Both MCI and Sprint call the U.K., so it shouldn't be too hard for people to call you.

Another operator you will find useful is the local operator. They, like the international operator, do not have Operator Number Identification (ONI). When making local calls you can call the 100 operator and tell them you lost 20p in their phone and they will believe you and place the call for you. This works also in making calls to other cities in England, besides London.

Switzerland

The next country I'd like to discuss is Switzerland. The telephone company there is a branch of the postal service. Central offices are located in the post offices. The best method known to me to call the U.S. is via the international operator using an AT&T calling card. They require call back on calling card calls so you can't make any free calls from where you are staying. MCI is about the only long distance carrier (excluding AT&T) that calls Switzerland. The telephone system from what I can interpret is a modified step by step or crossbar that accepts standard international DTMF tones (in some exchanges) via an interpreter. They also have cable boxes on the street that are locked and can be opened by a standard square wrench. This is rather dangerous since the police in Switzerland are not very nice and the concept of civil rights is not understood. When USA Direct becomes available there it will be easier to make calls to the U.S. from Switzerland.

(Continued on page 16)



Put Letters

Headline Here

New Toys

Dear 2600:

Here's some interesting information that 2600 readers might be interested in.

US West has introduced their new MPOW (Multi-Purpose Operator Workstation) which converts any IBM-compatible PC into a complete TSPS console with advanced capabilities. I'm sure many 2600 readers with PC's will find this concept intriguing. Perhaps there is a way to obtain and copy the board(s) and software.

Mitel's new telco product catalog describes several interesting products, including MF-tone generators and receivers, and a dialed-digit recorder. The latter is capable of "blue-box detection" and detects and prints out all 2600 hertz and MF-tone activity in red, triggers external alarms, and prints out all other line activity as well. No doubt phreaks have been busted with the help of this device.

Radio Shack now has a budget version of this for under \$100. Their compact device prints out all dialed digits (touch tone and pulse) as well as the start and end times of all incoming and outgoing calls. Until now nothing coming close to this in capability was available for under \$1000. Law-enforcement types will undoubtedly be using this updated version of the pen-register in various "fishing expeditions." It's interesting to note that the use of such equipment by police does *not* require a warrant, which means they can (and do) use it to snoop on whomever they choose to without worrying about wiretapping regulations.

On a more upbeat note, I've discovered that the Mitel S200 PABX where I work is externally programmable by modem, and can be

programmed to forward calls, among other things. I suspect many businesses with WATS lines and newer electronic PABX's are vulnerable to this "roll your own" approach to WATS extending. PABX's are fascinating—they're amazingly complex, versatile... and vulnerable. With a programming manual and a little inside knowledge or hacking skill, one can manipulate a company's entire telephone system from afar. Definitely worth checking into! I'd be interested in finding out what other 2600 readers have discovered about this subject.

Bernie S.

Thanks for the info. We must add that the new Radio Shack toy is, to say the least, incredible. See the article in this issue for a review.

Is it really true that the police don't need a warrant to use that instrument? Where do they attach it? They must need some kind of permission from someone to either climb a telephone pole, install the thing inside the central office, or plug it into the side of a house.

Explain Yourselves

Dear 2600:

I am not a hacker or a phreak, and in fact I'm not really literate in these matters, but I occasionally peruse your magazine. I am aware that you intend to undertake a strategy to increase your circulation, perhaps including newsstand sales. If this plan is to succeed, you are going to have to appeal to others like myself, with little or no understanding of electronics. In this connection, I would like to make a suggestion concerning the readability of your publication.

Every field of expertise inevitably develops its own jargon or lexicon which, for the most part, is impenetrable to those uninitiated in

that particular field. This is true of theoretical physics and psycho-analysis, philosophy, and high finance, and it is true of computer hacking.

For example, in a recent issue you printed an article entitled *Getting the Most Out of Equal Access* in which you state, among other mysterious things, that one can make long distance calls by dialing 10nnn, etc. The first question that comes to my mind is, how exactly does one dial "nnn"? Are you referring to the letter "N" which is printed with the number 6 on the telephone? Well, possibly, but I think not, because the letters on the phone are printed in upper case, but your n's were printed in lower case, suggesting that these letters are symbolic of some operation or piece of equipment known only to the initiated few.

So, after having read the article, I am left with the burning and unanswered question: Just exactly *how* does one dial "nnn"? Or, perhaps more to the point: Just exactly what does this thrice repeated lower case "n" symbolize? This, incidentally, is just one instance of a problem which I find recurring frequently in virtually every issue, and the fact is that people aren't going to purchase what they can't understand.

However, I believe there is a rather simple solution to this difficulty: I suggest that, in each issue, you include a glossary in which you give clear, "ordinary language" definitions of all the technical terms and symbols used in that issue. In this way you will not only broaden your readership, but you will also provide a valuable educational service to the public. I hope you will consider this suggestion, or some similar alternative, as I believe it is politically dangerous for the majority of the public to be, like me, computer-

illiterate in this day and age.

Furtively,
Izzy Hear

You raise many good points. Let us first answer your question. Generally, whenever you see smn's or x's, they indicate variables, or single digit numbers that are as yet undefined. If you look at the article in question, you should see a list of 3-digit numbers. These numbers are in fact the mysterious nnn's. But, if equal access isn't installed where you are, those numbers won't do a thing except confuse your local switching center.

We are encouraging our writers to explain their terms either throughout their articles or at the end in a type of glossary. But, obviously, we can't keep repeating the same explanations. Some of our readers already accuse us of being too simplistic and elementary! What we are trying to do is explain things as we go along, which is what we've been doing since issue 1. Our magazine is not a one time deal that you read and discard, but reference material that is stored away and looked at whenever the need arises. That's why we keep the back issues available, so we don't have to keep repeating the same information.

On another note, do you really think people aren't going to buy what they can't understand? Check out all of the folks who buy computers and don't know what to do with them when they plug them in! Answering machines, VCR's, telephone systems, even TV Guide—it's all becoming incomprehensible to the average people of the world. But that mere fact doesn't seem to be affecting sales. The emphasis seems to be on possession rather than comprehension. That's why the hackers are thriving in this world—they understand the tech-

(continued on page 17)

FAX: A New Hobby

by Bernie S.

Occasionally when scanning phone numbers you'll come across what sounds like a computer modem carrier but isn't. What it often turns out to be is a facsimile (FAX) machine. For those unaware of it, a FAX machine lets you send printed info (text, diagrams, or photos) over a phone line or radio link. Like computer modems, they use a carrier tone, but it is a different frequency and unlike "normal" data communications.

A FAX machine scans a printed document using an optical sensor that sweeps over the print detecting light and dark sections of the paper. There are presently three common FAX standards in use: Group I, II, and III. Until fairly recently, most FAX transmissions were of the Group I variety. Group I machines (many of which are still in use) use a rotating drum that the document is clamped to while the sensor traverses the length of the drum slowly. The light and dark sections modulate the carrier tone frequency which is transmitted over the phone line to another FAX machine. At the other end, it works in reverse—the modulated tone is translated back into an image by a hi-voltage stylus which scans over a blank sheet of electrostatically-sensitive paper, "burning" the image onto the sheet. (This makes a rank snail; real old machines would fill a room with smoke!) Group I transmissions typically take 6 minutes for an 8 1/2 by 11 inch sheet.

With the advent of cheap digital IC's, Group II and III standards emerged which transmit signals digitally (not unlike computer modems). The fastest group III machines can send a document in less than a minute at 9600 baud, the limit for unconditioned dial-up phone lines. A Group IV standard now exists which is much faster but requires Bell DDS or similar dedicated digital lines. The mechanical drum is now obsolete—a sheet is simply "dropped in" a newer FAX machine in which a tight row of phototransistors scans the whole document as it's pulled in between small motor-driven rollers. For output, ink-jet or similar printing technology prints out the received document.

For experimenters with little (or no) money, a

lot of companies are getting rid of their older Group I and II machines for cheap—I got an Exxon Dup 1200 Group I FAX from a local newspaper for \$50, and they threw in about ten reams of the special paper. This model was very popular about six years ago, and sold for about \$1000. Look around! Most Group II and III machines can be switched into Group I mode for compatibility. Some newer machines double as copiers, though you can cheat and use a tape recorder to "play" a document back into a machine to get a copy in a pinch. Eventually, a FAX machine/laser printer/copier will be invented and will be a standard office machine everywhere. Expensive PC add-on cards exist that convert a PC and printer into a fax that'll store images on disk, but they're almost as expensive as a new FAX machine!

"If you have a shortwave receiver with a BFO, you can pick up FAX images relayed from weather satellites, wire and press service photos, etc."

Now we can all send schematics, drawings, and photos over the phone for cheap—just like the big boys do. I may be the first to coin a new term: PHAXing! As an added bonus, if you have a shortwave receiver with a BFO, you can pick up FAX images relayed from weather satellites, wire and press service photos, etc. before everybody else sees them. Some minor modifications are needed to convert the speed since they use non-standard scan rates, but it's worth the effort.

I hope you're all turned on to this "new" hobby. Let's see some enthusiasm and support for FAX!

CLASS

say customer A calls customer B. Customer B happens to despise customer A, and keys in a special code. ESS again takes over and looks at the CLID information, and stores the calling line directory number in a special screen list associated with customer B. The next time customer A tries calling customer B, the terminating office will route the call to a local (the originating CO) digitized recording telling customer A that the call he made cannot be completed due to customer B's request. ("I'm sorry, but the customer you have tried to reach wishes you were eaten by a rabid carnival on drugs").

Dial Back

To create such a feature as "dial back" (for called or calling party), the ESS scratch pad memory is used again. The same principles are used as are employed in the already established custom calling feature, auto-redial. CLID will be used in the following way.

Your ESS switch will keep track of who you called last, and who called you last, through the retrieval of calling line information provided by LCCIS in conjunction with your switch. (Your switch will know what number you called last by directly storing the digits you dialed previously. Local signaling will provide calling line information via LCCIS call information forwarding using the data link mentioned.) This way, with your access codes you will have total re-dial service.

Customer Trace

This type of memory handling and signaling method will also allow the feature that everyone was afraid would abolish "phreaking". Subscriber initiated tracing, using the last caller directory number stored at your CO, will be available as far as Bell Laboratories is concerned. There seem to be two types of "customer originated trace". One will forward the number to local authorities, at which it will be handled through the police. The other feature AT&T/Bell Labs is working on will be a display module that will sit by your phone, and will display calling directory numbers. All other CLASS features that use the calling line information are used at the discretion of the caller. The customer originated trace, however, using the individual or bulk calling line

(continued from page 7)

identification features ("trace") allow the customer to view the calling number. The world is not ending...yet. In any case, individual customers will be able to employ a special "privacy code", which when dialed, tells the far-end switch not to forward the calling number to a desk display. Whether there will be a way to override this or not is obvious, of course. The police, the military, and government agencies are all likely to have a higher priority level than your privacy. It seems that long distance carriers could benefit greatly from CLASS. Why Bell/AT&T should give any type of special services to DCC's (Sprint, MCI, etc.) not given to other non-telephone companies, especially after equal access is fully implemented, I don't know (but then again, it is equal access). It is also possible that there will be no desk display. There are those phone phreaks who feel that BOC's will never give the end party the privilege of retrieving the calling party's number directly, due to plain old Bell policy on the issue of privacy. We'll have to wait and see about that point: the desk display is, in fact, operational and is being used in test stages. Whether Bell Labs feels that this feature can and will be used in a full scale non-beta stage BOC situation is a different story. The economic feasibility is questionable.

End Notes

CLASS, using local CCIS, will not function on inter-LATA calls. The local CCIS network is exactly that: local, and does not extend into the realm of "toll network". This will eventually be connected (allowing toll CCIS to interact with LCCIS as far as CLID information is concerned). How the various long distance networks will exchange information with the local BOC network is still a matter of speculation. It would seem like a monumental task to try to integrate the emerging long distance companies into the AT&T/BOC ISDN, be it because of equipment inconsistencies or lack of cooperation on the part of the DCC, etc.

CLASS is going to cause problems, as well as create a new environment for telephone users. Of course, those problems are only problems to people who will generally be reading this article, but the more you know about CLASS the more comfortable you'll feel about the service. It can

be used to one's advantage, even as a telecommunications hobbyist. Just as a corporation will be able to set up a complete history of who is calling their system, and eventually keep people off the system using the screen list in memory, the same features can be applied to bulletin board systems and the like. Imagine being able to keep all the local boxes off your board, or being able to screen all but your private local users (making your system completely inaccessible through the PSTN network from any telephone but that of one of your users). In such applications, the system could be useful.

phoning home

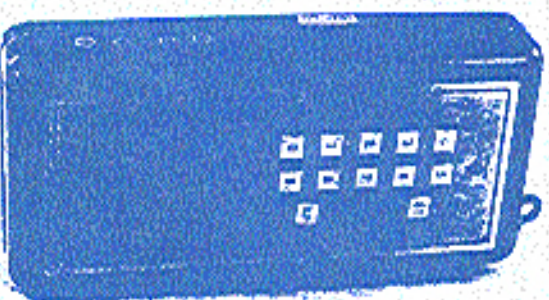
(continued from page 9)

Italy

Italy, the last country I visited on my tour, turned out to be the best country all around. When I went to Italy I did not think that it was very easy to call the United States. I was wrong. I tried to find out if USA Direct was available in Italy and found out it wasn't (but will be by the end of 1987). So I experimented with the use of international AT&T calling cards. This is very difficult since Italcable (the long distance operator of Italian Telephone) required call back for collect and calling card calls. Unfortunately the only payphones which have the phone numbers written on them are the ones in restaurants and bars. I asked one of my Italian friends about calling for free and she told me a trick that she had used while in Sicily to call Rome. She showed it to me and it worked. It could only be done on payphones (any payphone). 1) Get a piece of conducting metal (wire, etc.) 2) Dial 111 on a payphone (you will get a re-order). 3) Fasten one end of the wire to the metal guarding the wire from the handset to the telephone itself. 4) Put the other end of the wire in the center hole of the microphone side of the handset and tap it extremely lightly once, maybe twice. This should turn the re-order into a dialtone. Once this happens you can dial anywhere in Italy or anywhere in the world without any toll restrictions. (Note: this takes a while to get the hang of.) If you cannot work this

out, you can deposit 200 Lire (10 cents) into a payphone and it will let you dial the U.S. It cuts you off very soon after you are connected, but you can at least give the number of where you are staying. MCI is the only long distance company, besides AT&T, that calls Italy. If you do go to Italy you will see how bad the telephone system is. This could have something to do with the fact that they insulate their wire with paper instead of plastic.

Remember when calling the U.S. to avoid calling people using fraudulent AT&T International Calling Cards. If you have to use a Calling Card, call an extender, and call your friends through the extender and then get your friends to call you. Also, if USA Direct is available in the country you are in, use it to call an extender in the States collect or use a calling card number on USA Direct. The reason I say this is because it is widely known that when it comes to backtracking the worst long distance company known for this, by far, is AT&T. All you have to do is be careful and enjoy your vacation.



This blue box has chips to generate the tones that it still takes up a lot of room in a 12x2.5x5 inch case. Bell had reset the potentiometers inside just in case it was sold to someone who knew what it was.

Photo by John Drake

Letters Headline

(continued from page 13)

nology and they use their brains to gain control of it while everyone else is still reading the documentation. We speak to the hackers, but we'll never miss an opportunity to enlighten a non-hacker who's interested in learning. That's why we always try and answer questions.

Needs Blue Box Program

Dear 2600:

I am currently "attempting" to write a book concerning computer phone phreaking and hacking. I thought a section on "blue boxes" would be an interesting history lesson for readers since the technique is fast becoming obsolete and is unknown to most people. I have BASIC blue box plans for the C-64, Atari, and the TI computers. I am in desperate need of a blue box program written entirely in BASIC for the following computers: IBM, Apple, Tandy/Radio Shack.

Do you have any available printouts of such programs for these computers? If one of your readers has such listings, they can reach me at (214) 693-5132 from 8 am-6 pm CST.

Edward Dean Jones

Access Still Unequal

Dear 2600:

I'm grateful for the Hobbit's article, *Getting the Most Out of Equal Access*. Recently, I switched from Ma Bell to MCI and became aware of the equal access possibilities. Unfortunately my area doesn't permit equal access. So the question now is how do I lobby for one? Have you any suggestions?

In light of the fact that "the procedure for placing a long distance call is now above the understanding level (sic, "level" is redundant) of a good proportion of the public, and the various companies are doing very little to educate them," what organizations and magazines are available to help

consumers get through the maze? I'd like to see a list of them in 2600.

I'm aware of a single article devoted to alternate long distance carriers. It appeared in *Consumer Reports* several months ago.

On a different subject, 2600's print makes r's and n's combine into one fused incomprehensible letter.

And finally: authors and editors should care enough to define terms for us neophytes. What's an X-bar switch? A CO? An ESS?

I hope to see more articles helping casual users through the maze of phone company shenanigans.

IHR

Equal access should be available in all areas of the USA by the early nineties at the very latest. If you carry on a bit and call your business office with complaints fairly frequently, they might speed it up somewhat. But the very least they must do is provide you with free access to the long distance carrier of your choice. Usually this is done through the 950 exchange.

We've noticed the problem with the r's and n's on one of our typewriters. Until we figure out how to fix that, simply substitute an "r" and an "n" for every fused incomprehensible letter you come across.

Reaching Out

Dear 2600:

You've helped me a bunch by publishing all those net addresses. One or two people who I couldn't reach before became reachable due to you. So, in return, here are some other net addresses which work.

1 Jet Population Lab, Pasadena, CA
491-4651

1 California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, CA
kcc@caltech.edu

1 Texas Inst. Pulo Alto, CA
j.pulter@cs.cmu.edu

A PEN REGISTER FOR PHREAKS?

Deephone CPA-1000
Dialed Number Recorder
Available at Radio Shack
\$99

Review by Emmanuel Goldstein

The fairly new Radio Shack CPA-1000 "pen register" is a most remarkable piece of equipment and a must for those who want to know what's really happening on their phone lines.

In the past, phone phreaks have always dreaded having a pen register put on their line—a device that prints out every number dialed, including authorization codes and touchtone passwords. By having one already on your line in the comfort of your own home, you at least have the convenience of seeing what others might be seeing.

But that's not the only reason to have one of these devices. Have you ever wondered how a particular phone number got onto your bill? The CPA-1000 will tell you, as soon as the number is dialed. It will also tell you how long the phone was off the hook for. (Note: that is not the same as how long the conversation went on for. The machine cannot tell if the line was busy or never answered—it treats all calls the same.) This will work for any extension hooked up on that line, including those not inside your house, such as when the telephone linemen hooks into your line on the pole or when the switchman at the central office is playing around. This device is also quite convenient when a repairman comes around and dials some of those magic numbers. Now it will all be neatly recorded.

The CPA-1000 also keeps track of incoming calls. It will tell you how many times the phone rang and how long the phone was off the hook, if it was picked up at all. This in itself is a great supplement to an answering machine that doesn't have a time function. Every time the phone rings,

the date and time will be printed out.

Of course, consumers can now do the same nasty things that only tees or spies could do before. Simply plugging the CPA-1000 into a modular outlet anywhere (the unit can run on four "AA" batteries) will give you all activity for that line as it happens. It will even record long distance authorization codes.

Recently, we reported a problem on one of our lines to the telephone company. Within minutes, the CPA-1000 started printing out strange information. According to its report, the phone rang zero times and someone was on the phone for thirty seconds. This happened about four or five times. We were actually able to "see" the phone company testing the line.

The CPA-1000 looks like a small adding machine and uses the same type of paper. It doesn't make much noise when it prints, and it can be easily muffled. At the end of each day, the total number of incoming calls, non-answered incoming calls, outgoing calls, and outgoing calls exceeding ten digits is printed out. An additional feature is the accounting code. All a person has to do is dial or touch tone four digits before they hang up. Those four digits will print out below the other information—a great way to claim calls. The unit can support call waiting and works perfectly regardless of whether the caller is using touch tone or pulse or even both.

It's rather amusing that Radio Shack would come out with a product like this when it's been so busy trying to get people to stop listening to cellular phone calls. While this isn't an actual bug, one can tell an awful lot about a person or a company by the numbers they dial. It's nice to know that at least the consumers can see what's really going on inside their phone lines—and maybe inside others as well. The authorities have been doing this for years.

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